

**GENERAL REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment relates to a corresponding United States National Stage application, based on a previously filed PCT International application. The International application included 64 claims. With this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant has requested cancellation of claims 21 – 64, without prejudice. Applicant requests that this cancellation of the claims be entered, prior to calculation of filing fees. With the claims as now presented in the application, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of allowability is respectfully requested. Should any questions arise in connection with the above, please contact Thomas L. Lockhart at the telephone number of (616) 336-6000.

Respectfully submitted,

KEITH A. HOFFMAN

Dated: 5/27/05

By Thomas L. Lockhart  
Thomas L. Lockhart, Reg. No. 29,324  
VARNUM, RIDDERING, SCHMIDT & HOWLETT LLP  
Bridgewater Place  
333 Bridge Street  
Post Office Box 352  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0352  
(616) 336-6000

#1127441